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Lt. Governor Kleefisch, DWD Secretary Newson Visit Fond du Lac Regional Event to Link Veterans with Job Openings

Veterans Job Fair in Fond du Lac provides opportunities for veterans and employers to connect

FOND DU LAC – Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today visited the veterans job fair at the Moraine Park Technical College in Fond du Lac. The job fair, organized by DWD's Office of Veterans Services as well as other partners, is part of Governor Walker's "Wisconsin Working" agenda to connect job seekers, including veterans, with new employment opportunities.

"Our commitment to veterans includes providing opportunities for them to find family-supporting jobs," Lt. Governor Kleefisch said. "Governor Walker's proclamation of 2012 as the Year of the Veteran underscores his commitment to veterans, who along with their families have sacrificed so much for our nation's protection and well-being."

"DWD is proud to host opportunities for veterans to connect with employers," said DWD Secretary Newson. "The veteran-focused job fairs we've held this have been attended by over 2,400 veterans and 650 employers. We look forward to continuing to focus on serving our veterans. Through our Office of Veterans Services, DWD is able to serve more than 10,000 veterans each year."

In addition to the job fairs, DWD also coordinates the Veterans in Piping (VIP) program, which consists of an intensive 20-week pre-apprenticeship training course for participating veterans. Those who graduate are guaranteed a job as an apprentice pipefitter. Approximately 40 veterans have completed the training and found employment since VIP training began in 2011 in Wisconsin, the first state in the Midwest to offer the program.

DWD also has Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) staff in comprehensive Job Centers and additional outreach locations throughout Wisconsin who are ready to assist all veterans with their employment search and serve as a resource for all veteran benefit programs.

Several veteran initiatives also took effect in July 2012 as part of the Governor's "Wisconsin Working" agenda, including statutory changes that enable veterans to apply skills learned in the military towards earning a civilian degree, and providing a fee waiver to veterans applying for occupational licenses. Additional details can be found on WDVA's website at <http://dva.state.wi.us/Ben-FeeWaiver.asp>.

"Finding employment for Wisconsin's veterans is one of our state's top priorities. I am proud to be working with Lt. Governor Kleefisch, Secretary Newson and other partners on this effort," noted Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Secretary John Scocos, whose agency partnered with DWD on the job fair. "It is imperative we continue to collaborate on statewide strategies to assist our state's veterans."